



STATE OF WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT

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September 23, 2003

TO: Joe Lehman, Secretary
Department of Corrections

FROM: Marty Brown, Director

SUBJECT: Department of Corrections Incident Report #03-33 Does Not Merit Review

Pursuant to RCW 43.41.370 and the Guidelines for Reporting Incidents to the Office of Financial Management (OFM), the Department of Corrections (DOC) reported to OFM that on October 30, 2002, the Department of Ecology fined DOC \$54,000 for repeated violations of hazardous waste handling rules at the State Penitentiary in Walla Walla.

Ecology found inadequate handling and storage of chemicals and waste materials generated by the prisons' industrial activities and maintenance operations. Problem substances included solvents, paint, motor oil and antifreeze. After the citation was issued, DOC and Ecology worked together on a settlement which provides for comprehensive training for DOC's institutions staff in the proper handling of hazardous materials. The training is now being implemented as planned.

RCW 43.41.370(1) requires the Director of OFM to appoint a loss prevention review team when the death of a person, serious injury to a person, or other substantial loss is alleged or suspected to be caused at least in part by the actions of a state agency unless the Director, in his or her discretion, determines that the incident "does not merit review". Applying the criteria for loss prevention reviews issued November 18, 2002, I have determined that this incident does not merit review. While the incident significantly relates to agency systems or practices, DOC has taken careful steps to correct its materials handling and disposal procedures and to train employees accordingly. The external review that led Ecology to issue the citation was adequate in identifying the problem and led to a viable solution. Further review is not warranted at this time.

This decision will be posted on the OFM website. If you have any questions about the criteria or its application to this incident, please contact either Susan Hettinger at (360) 902-9815 or Gary Robinson at (360) 902-0528.

cc: Kathy Gastreich, Risk Management & Safety Administrator, DOC